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2

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-6 and 9-20 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claim 1-6. (Canceled)

Claim 7. (Allowed) An active matrix liquid crystal display device driven by a dot inversion driving process, said active matrix liquid crystal display device comprising:

- a first substrate with a plurality of switching elements disposed thereon;
- a second substrate disposed in opposing relation to said first substrate; a liquid crystal layer sandwiched between said first substrate and said second substrate;
- a plurality of data lines disposed on said first substrate, for supplying data signals to said switching elements;
- an overcoat layer disposed on said first substrate in covering relation to said data lines and said first substrate;
- a plurality of pixel electrodes arranged in a matrix on said overcoat layer; and
- a black matrix disposed on said data lines;

said pixel electrodes being driven by said switching elements, respectively;

said data lines being disposed at respective gaps between adjacent two of said pixel electrodes;

said black matrix having a portion overlapping said pixel electrodes, said portion having a width W represented by:

$$W \geq d_{LC}/2 + d_{OC} \cdot \tan \theta$$

where d_{LC} represents a thickness of said liquid crystal layer, d_{OC} represents a thickness of said overcoat layer on said black matrix, and θ represents one-half of a given viewing angle 2θ .

Claim 8. (Allowed) An active matrix liquid crystal display device according to claim 7, wherein the thickness d_{OC} of said overcoat layer on said black matrix is at most $1 \mu\text{m}$, and said overcoat layer planarizes steps of said black matrix to at most $0.5 \mu\text{m}$.

Claims 9-20. (Canceled)